

Appln. S.N. 10/086,311
Amdt. dated February 28, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2006
Docket No. 10992014-1

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REMARKS

The Office Action of November 29, 2006 has been received and carefully reviewed. It is submitted that, by this Amendment, all bases of rejection are traversed and overcome. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-23, 25-31, 33-38, 40-42 and 44 remain in the application. Claims 24, 32, 39 and 43 are cancelled herein. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-12, 14, 15, 17-23, 25-31 and 33-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Leon (U.S. Patent No. 6,701,304). With regard to claims 1 and 11, the Examiner states that Leon discloses a method for postage label authentication comprising receiving the mail piece; scanning the postage evidence for visible marks and non-visible marks to read visible mark information indicated by the visible marks and non-visible mark information indicated by the non-visible marks; and processing the visible mark information and the non-visible marks information to generate postage information for the mail piece. With regard to claims 21 and 29, the Examiner states that Leon further discloses a method comprising printing visible marks on the mail piece, and printing non-visible marks on the mail piece, wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks indicate the postage evidence for the mail piece.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. Applicant's claim 1 is directed to a mail system including a processing system that processes information obtained from visible and non-visible marks to **generate** postage information (e.g., postage amount, date, destination address, etc.) for the mail piece. Applicant's claim 11 is a method for processing postage evidence including processing the visible and non-visible mark information to generate postage information.

The systems disclosed in Leon are directed to i) a secure metering device which generates postage indicia, directs printing of the indicia, and performs accounting functions, and ii) an authentication system for the detection of the existence and contents of printed materials (e.g., to detect fraudulent indicia). The authentication includes one or more systems which detect visible and non-visible

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information from postage indicia, and pass such information to a computer that **analyzes, verifies, and authenticates** the retrieved information (Column 13, lines 18-42). Leon teaches that the secure metering device creates the indicia, and that the authentication system verifies the authenticity of the indicia. However, Leon does not teach or suggest that the authentication system processes visible and/or non-visible information on the label to *generate* postage information on the mail piece that is based on the processed information.

The Applicant's system and method as defined in claims 1 and 11 include systems and steps for retrieving the information from the visible and non-visible marks, and for processing the retrieved information for generating postage information. This is in sharp contrast to Leon which, as previously stated, teaches a system for printing indicia, and another system for authenticating indicia. Leon does not teach or suggest using the retrieved information to *generate* postage information.

For the reasons stated above, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as defined in independent claims 1 and 11, and those claims depending ultimately therefrom, are not anticipated, taught or rendered obvious by Leon, either alone or in combination, and patentably defines over the art of record.

Claim 21 is directed to a postage system configured to print postage evidence on a mail piece, and claim 29 is directed to a method of operating the postage system. Applicant's postage system as defined in amended claim 21 includes a processing system that is configured to generate a print signal to print non-visible marks and visible marks using a checksum algorithm. Applicant's method as defined in amended claim 29 includes that the marks are printed based on a checksum algorithm.

Leon discloses that an indicia can be encoded with an encryption algorithm such as, for example, DES, RSA, or a comparable algorithm. DES ("Data Encryption Standard") is an encryption algorithm used to encrypt and decrypt data, and RSA ("Rivest, Shamir, and Adelman Signatures") is a public-key cryptographic system used for authentication purposes. (See IPSec Overview Part One: General IPSec

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Standards, by Andrew Mason,

<http://www.informit.com/articles/article.asp?p=25470&seqNum=4&rl=1>, February 2002) A checksum algorithm, however, is used to compute a value that is used to check the validity of something. (See A Checksum Algorithm, by Joseph M. Newcomer, <http://www.codeproject.com/cpp/checksum.asp>.) It is submitted that one skilled in the art would be cognizant of the fact that a checksum algorithm (as recited by the Applicant) is not an encryption or decryption algorithm, and, thus, cannot be considered "a comparable algorithm" to those taught in Leon.

For the reasons stated above, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as defined in claims 21 and 29, and those claims depending ultimately therefrom, is not anticipated, taught or rendered obvious by Leon, either alone or in combination, and patentably defines over the art of record.

Claims 3, 6, 13, 16, 24 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon. Claims 3, 6, 13 and 16 depend ultimately from one of claims 1 and 11, and claims 24 and 32 are cancelled herein. The Applicant reiterates those arguments pertaining to the rejections of claims 1, 11, 21 and 29, and submits that claims 3, 6, 13 and 16 are patentable over Leon for the same reasons.

Claims 37-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leon in view of Berson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,039,257). With regard to claims 37 and 41, the Examiner states that Leon discloses a method comprising printing a visible bar code on the mail piece, but admits that Leon fails to disclose printing a non-visible bar code on the mail piece within white space on the visible bar code, wherein the visible bar code and the non-visible bar code indicate the postage evidence for the mail piece. The Examiner states that Berson, however, discloses the use of an invisible ink to print a bar code "over, or as a part of the IBI" to create additional security. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of Leon and include printing the invisible bar code over, or as part of, the IBI as taught by Berson because it provides the system with additional security for authenticating the mail piece.

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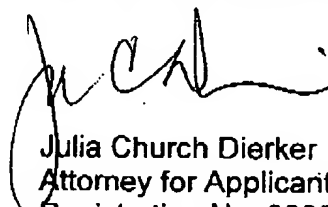
Independent claims 37 and 41 have been amended herein to include the use of a checksum algorithm for printing visible and non-visible bar codes. For the reasons previously stated, such an algorithm is neither taught by, suggested by, nor obvious in view of Leon. Applicant further submits that this deficiency is not supplied by Berson. Berson does not teach, suggest or even mention a checksum algorithm. Thus, it is submitted that independent claims 37 and 41, and those claims depending ultimately therefrom, is not anticipated, taught or rendered obvious by Leon or Berson, either alone or in combination, and patentably defines over the art of record.

In summary, claims 1-23, 25-31, 33-38, 40-42, and 44 remain in the application. Although Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's rejections herein, Applicant presents this amendment in order to expedite prosecution. It is submitted that, through this Amendment, Applicant's invention as set forth in these claims is in a condition suitable for allowance.

Further and favorable consideration is requested. If the Examiner believes it would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's Attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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